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28 November 1956

OGC HAS REVIEWED.

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Record

SUBJECT : Conference [REDACTED] CIA 25X1A
Emergency Planning Officer, re OGC Review
of Emergency Executive Orders.

1. I met with [REDACTED] for an hour and a half at 25X1A9a his Office on 27 November 1956 and received from him a general briefing on his responsibilities as the Emergency Planning Officer for the Agency. In a most cooperative way [REDACTED] detailed 25X1A9a for me events prior to Operation ALERT 1956 relating to the drafting of emergency executive orders by Federal agencies and departments.

2. He reported that a Cabinet meeting in March 1956 approved a procedure whereby emergency action papers including draft executive orders and proposed legislation were to be prepared in advance by the various agencies and were to be turned over to ODM for screening and coordination and thereafter passed to the President's Office for safekeeping. A review of such papers every six months was also called for. He recalled also that he and Mr. Houston had considered this matter with Colonel White and had reached the conclusion that existing legislation, NSC directives, and current agreements with other agencies were adequate for CIA's wartime mission. Accordingly, the emphasis by this Agency was to be placed upon a review of the proposals of other departments and agencies in order to insure that such proposals would impose no unforeseen limitations on CIA. The substance of this conclusion was embodied in a memorandum signed by Colonel White, dated 24 February 1956, TS 25X1A9a Control No. 141158. [REDACTED] recalled further that CIA made an informal approach to Lyman Hamilton (now replaced by Harry Wilhelm) in the Bureau of the Budget and arranged through this contact that the Bureau of the Budget would advise us of proposed emergency action 25X1A9a directives which might affect the work of this Agency. [REDACTED] had no firsthand knowledge of the three recent emergency action directives which OGC has reviewed and approved and which were sent to this Agency from Roger Jones in the Bureau of the Budget and reached OGC from [REDACTED] However, [REDACTED] thought that 25X1A9a this might be the outgrowth of the arrangement initiated with Lyman Hamilton.

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7. In view of the issuance of revised briefing documents in a few weeks, I asked [REDACTED] what initiative by OGC he thought was warranted in a further review of Operation ALERT 1956 documents. I reported that an initial screening had been made by various members of this Office. We agreed to continue to give the matter attention without any particular priority pending receipt of the revised briefing documents. [REDACTED] believed it would be worthwhile if I

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should call his attention to any portions of the 1956 orders where I had a question as to the adequacy, in practice, of inter-agency arrangements that would permit us to take advantage of exceptions provided for in the emergency orders. He would then make inquiries to determine whether our operating component had worked out a satisfactory procedure with the other governmental entities involved.

8. We discussed emergency procedures for National Censorship specifically and [REDACTED] reported that he is the Agency 25X1A9a representative on the National Censorship Committee. He stated that a staff has already been selected for the wartime Office of Censorship from his members of the ODM Executive Reserve Corps. It is now planned that the Department of Defense will serve as the interim censoring entity for up to one year until the Office of Censorship can take over. Various inter-agency agreements have been worked out, including one with this Agency now awaiting ODM approval which will levy our intelligence collection requirements on the Office of Censorship. This draft agreement also saves an exception for this Agency with respect to certain mail that we may wish to have excluded from censorship.

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[REDACTED]

Assistant General Counsel

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